ALLOWANCE

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney John Parzych on 2 June 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 12, line 10, the period "." following the word "cells" has been replaced with a comma --,--.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record when considered as a whole, alone or in combination, neither anticipates nor renders obvious: an apparatus for storing and supplying bags of blood comprising a cabinet, a refrigerated space for containing the bags, each bag having a bag identification means, a magazine in the refrigerated space having a plurality of cells arranged in a plurality of superposed levels and each capable of containing one bag of blood, each cell further having a univocal cell code independent of its level and position and a cell identification means capable of containing and/or retrieving cell codes, at least one door to allow an operator to access the cells, a

movement system capable of moving the cells, a cooling system capable of cooling the refrigerated space, a processing system controlling the cooling and movement systems, a reading device for reading bag identification means connected to the processing system and located at the walls of the cabinet, at least one reading device for reading cell identification means connected to the processing system and having at least one movement member controlled by the processing unit and a machine space for containing the movement system, the cooling system and the processing system (separated from the refrigerated space) as taught in instant independent claim 12.

German Publication No. DE 4418005 A1 to Scheuer teaches a cupboard for storing blood plasma units having a cabinet having binary codes so that units (bags)) can be rapidly identified and accessed, a number of motor driven turntables on which the units are arranged and an associated computer storing details about the number of free and occupied storage places. The cabinet is taught to have a hatch for accessing the units, a pipe for adding cooling air to the cabinet and a reader for reading the unit codes. Scheuer does not teach the computer controlling the cooling system the presence of cell identification means, the use of a number of reading devices for reading cell identification means, the reading devices having a number of movement members associated therewith and controlled by the computer or the use of a separate machine space for containing the computer, the turntable motor(s) and the cooling system as in instant claim 12.

Italian Publication No. IT UD 96A000073 to Angelantoni Industrie teaches a refrigerated storage device for containing bags of blood in individual cells each bag having identification data and each cell having an encoded location, there being an "acquiring data means" for acquiring data regarding the blood units, processing means coupled with the acquiring data means. Further it is suggested in fig. 3 but not explicitly taught in the English language abstract that there is also a door for accessing plural layers of the storage space, a movement system for moving the shelves, and a plurality of devices (shown at 36) for reading cell identification means. Angelantoni does not teach the processing system controlling the movement and cooling systems, the cell identification readers being supplied with movement members (Angelantoni teaches a plurality of such readers in various locations rather than readers movable between locations) and the processing, cooling and movement systems being located in a separate machine space as in instant claim 12.

US Patent No. 6,688,123 B2 to Felder et al. teaches an automated storage and retrieval apparatus for containing biological samples, the apparatus including a freezer compartment, a storage carousel having a plurality of layers each with a plurality of storage locations for containing storage containers which are identifiable by barcodes, a barcode reader for scanning the barcodes to identify storage containers as they are inserted into or removed form the device and an exterior door for depositing and withdrawing containers which are automatically moved to and from storage positions on the carousel. Felder does not teach the door providing access to the cells (but rather to

a single automatically retrieved container) nor does Felder teach the storage locations having univocal codes or identification means and further does not teach the use of a reader for such identification means or such a reader being mounted on a movement member. Finally, Felder fails to teach the use of a separated machine compartment within the cabinet in which the movement system, cooling system and processing system are located as in instant claim 12.

US Patent No. 7,527,764 B2 to Angelantoni et al. teaches an automated system for conserving samples (not explicitly taught to be blood) in a temperature controlled enclosure, the system having a temperature control means and a set of moving disks each having a plurality of storage locations in which samples are placed for storage by "a Cartesian robotic system" equipped to deposit and retrieve such samples which may be an input/output drawer through which the a user may add and remove samples to be stored by the robotic system and a sample identifying means. Angelantoni does not teach the use of any means for identifying the individual storage locations and as such does not teach a reader for reading this identification or such a reader being controlled by the cabinet's control system as in instant claim 12. Furthermore Angelantoni does not teach the movement and cooling systems sharing a common controller.

US Patent No. 5,842,179 to Beavers et al. teaches a freezer having a plurality of drawers therein each comprising a plurality of locations in which a laboratory specimen may be stored. The freezer is taught to comprise a computerized inventory system for

recording the location of each specimen stored therein. Beavers does not teach the system having any movement system for moving the drawers in which the specimens are placed, teaching the drawers to be constructed similarly to commonly known kitchen drawers. Beavers further fails to teach the use of any specimen or location identification means or reading means for such identification as taught in instant claim 12 but rather teaches an inventory system that merely records the location at which a specimen was manually placed as manually input by a user.

Japanese Publication No. 200-116767 to Hirota et al. teaches a system for blood collection having a compartment in which a platform (saucer 2) is disposed to support a bag of blood and to shake (move) the bag of blood as the platform swings and the bag is weighed. The system further comprises a means for reading data stored in a label on the bag of blood. Hirota does not teach the compartment having a cooling system or such a cooling system being controlled by the same processor as the saucer's movement. Furthermore, Hirota does not teach the presence of multiple storage cells and thus does not teach these cells being superposed on levels or having identification codes and further fails to teach the use of any reader for reading such cell identification means as in instant claim 12.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel C. Comings whose telephone number is 571-270-7385. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frantz Jules or Cheryl Tyler can be reached on 571-272-6681 or 571-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel C Comings/
Examiner, Art Unit 3744
June 7, 2010

/Frantz F. Jules/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3744